
Introduced by Senator Hancock

February 9, 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to the 22nd Annual State Scientist Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 70, as introduced, Hancock. 22nd Annual State Scientist Day.

This measure would declare May 19, 2010, as the 22nd Annual State Scientist Day, as a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who work on behalf of all Californians.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of California employs nearly 3,000
2 professional scientists in over 30 state departments working in
3 more than 230 scientific classifications; and
4 WHEREAS, State scientists hold graduate degrees in virtually
5 every scientific discipline, including nematology, virology,
6 seismology, epidemiology, toxicology, and many others; and
7 WHEREAS, State scientists are represented by the California
8 Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS), which is dedicated
9 to professionalism, independence, responsible advocacy, and
10 ensuring that state scientists receive fair pay and benefits for their
11 important work; and
12 WHEREAS, The work of state scientists protects the public
13 from life-threatening diseases, safeguards our wildlife and abundant
14 natural resources, and protects our air and water from toxic waste
15 and pollution; and
16 WHEREAS, State scientists are required to make critical
17 decisions every day based on rigorous scientific factfinding and

1 these decisions ultimately impact the lives and property of all
2 Californians; and

3 WHEREAS, The Governor wrote in October 2007 that “I value
4 the dedication and work of the State’s scientists, and I am
5 concerned that salaries for this group may have fallen behind those
6 of comparable workers” and that he wants to ensure “that the State
7 is moving in the direction of achieving fair and equitable
8 compensation for the scientists”; and

9 WHEREAS, If California loses its scientific expertise, the state
10 will go unarmed in the battles against greenhouse gas emissions,
11 air pollution, and the overall protection of children’s health,
12 according to a 2006 California Environmental Protection Agency
13 report; and

14 WHEREAS, State scientists perform important work in the areas
15 of infectious disease prevention, oil spill prevention and cleanup,
16 public health drinking water monitoring, the protection of
17 agricultural crops, brownfields mitigation, chemical and
18 radiological disaster response, and much more; and

19 WHEREAS, State scientists host an annual State Scientist Day
20 at the State Capitol to increase public awareness and recognition
21 of the significant contributions made by scientists working in state
22 government while entertaining and educating over 2,000
23 elementary school students with fun, hands-on science exhibits,
24 including digging for hidden artifacts, viewing live fish in a
25 1,500-gallon tank, and playing Pollution Prevention “Wheel of
26 Fortune” and Coastal Creature “Jeopardy”; and

27 WHEREAS, State Scientist Day has sparked an interest in
28 science for thousands of California school children, legislators,
29 state employees, and the public who attend the special event; now,
30 therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
32 *thereof concurring*, That May 19, 2010, shall be recognized as the
33 22nd Annual State Scientist Day, and that this day shall be a tribute
34 to the dedication and professionalism of the state scientists who
35 work on behalf of all Californians; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
37 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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